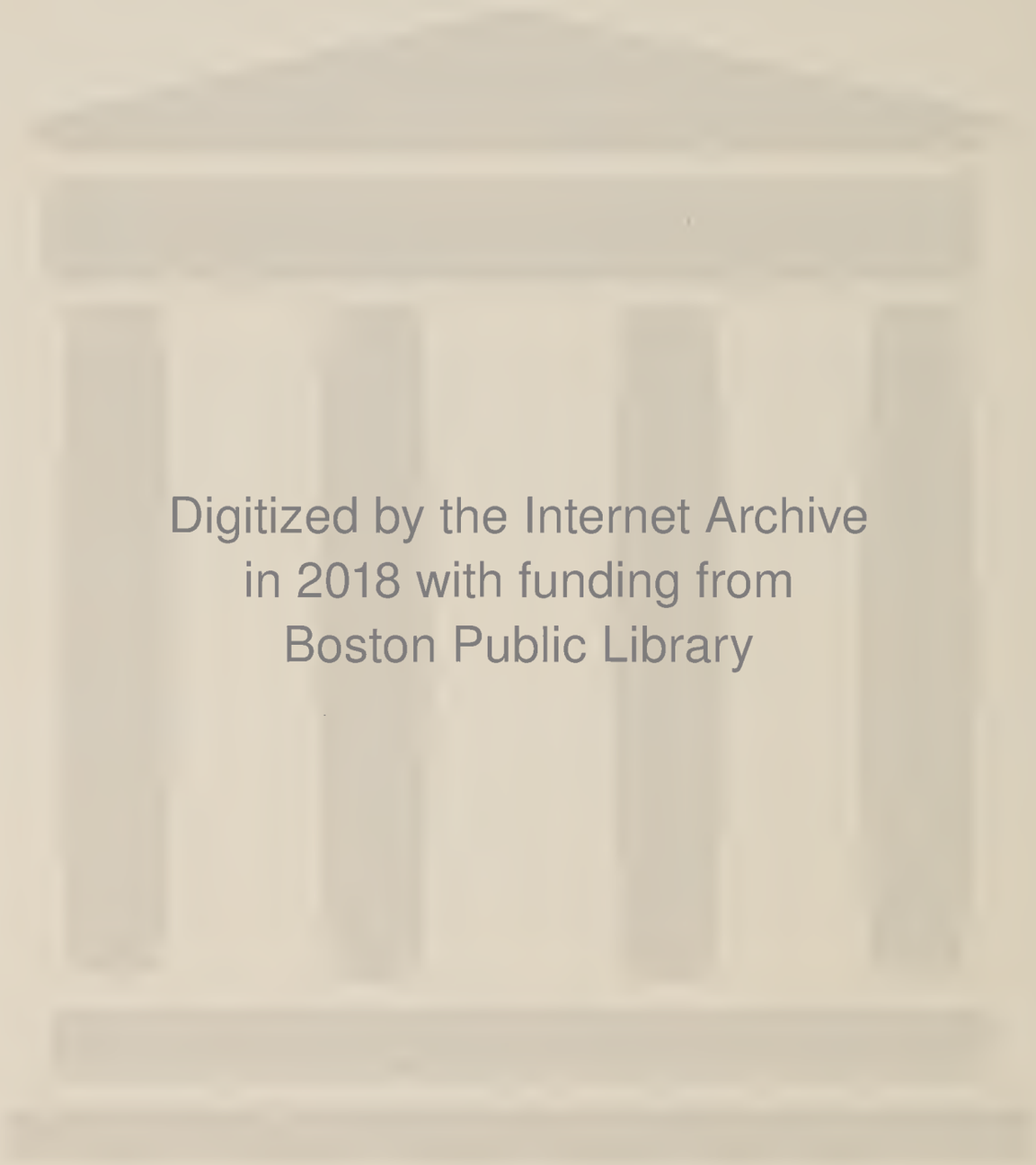
GOVERNOR DUMMER ACADEMY

SOUTH BYFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Founded in 1763

BULLETIN OF INFORMATION

Revised September 1, 1939



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Bulletin of Information

The school does not publish a catalog. Most of the information usually contained in a school catalog has been included in this bulletin. In addition, the school publishes annually a special issue of the regular school newspaper, "The Archon," which is designed to supplement this bulletin and to provide, through photographs and actual news articles, a complete picture of the life and activities of the school. The school will be glad to supply additional copies of this bulletin or of the special issue of "The Archon" upon request.

Governor Dummer is the oldest endowed boys' boarding school in the United States. It was established in 1763 by Lieutenant-Governor William Dummer, who served for many years as acting governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and who left by will his country estate of about 330 acres situated about thirty miles north of Boston. The school has been in continuous operation since its founding and has retained and enlarged the original grant of land. The beautiful and historic Mansion House, which Governor Dummer built and to which he brought his bride, is now used as the headmaster's home. And the original little red school house still stands, where taught the celebrated Master Moody and where were educated eighteen members of Congress; two Chief Justices and sixty members of the Massachusetts legislature; nineteen officers in the Revolutionary Army, including four generals and two majors; Rufus King and Nathaniel Gorham, sole signers of the Federal Constitution from Massachusetts; Commodore Preble, conqueror of Tripoli; Samuel Webber, president of Harvard College; and Samuel Phillips, founder of Phillips Academy at Andover.

Governor Dummer is a small school of about 150 boys and eighteen masters. The size of the school and the high ratio of masters to students makes it possible for the headmaster and faculty to treat each boy individually, and to maintain a friendly and homelike life. The school has a national patronage and about two-thirds of the resident students come from homes outside the state of Massachusetts.

Enrollment is limited to the four classes preceding college and corresponding to the four years of high school. Examinations are not usually required for entrance, but a boy is admitted on the basis of his previous school record and after a personal interview with him and his parents. The school reserves the right to dismiss a student at any time, if in the judgment of the school this action is in the best interests of the school community. Enrollment is not strictly limited to those who wish college preparation, but a large majority of the graduates enter college, either by College Board examinations or by the school's certificate.

EXPENSES

Boarding Tuition: The Academy is incorporated not for profit, and is administered by a Board of Trustees. The annual tuition charge for boarding boys, from the opening of school in the fall through the close of the Commencement period in June, is $1500. It is understood that students are entered for the entire year, and no deductions are ordinarily made for absence. This ruling has to apply even in cases of withdrawal and dismissal.

Tuition is due and payable in three equal installments as follows: $500 on the opening day of school in the fall; $500 on December 1st following; and $500 on February 1st following.

Day Student's Expenses: The annual tuition for day pupils is $300, payable in three equal installments on the dates specified in the above paragraph referring to boarding students. By a recent vote of the Board of Trustees, free tuition is granted to day students residing in the Town of Newbury or the Parish of Byfield. Day pupils are charged for luncheons in the school dining room at the rate of $2.50 per week.

Books: Every effort has been made to avoid extra charges. Many items which are usually billed as extras are included in the regular tuition fee. The only unavoidable extra school expense is for school books, in which case the school thinks it worthwhile to encourage a boy's sense of personal ownership. This item will probably amount to $15 or $20 in the course of a school year.

Tuition Inclusive: There is no graduation or diploma fee. No charge is made for the regular Saturday evening moving pictures, nor for other lectures, concerts, and entertainments. No extra charge is made for laboratory courses, nor for the use of the laboratories, library, nor photographic dark rooms.

There are no athletic dues, and no charge is made for the use of the athletic field and gymnasium equipment, nor for athletic coaching and supervision. Contrary to the usual custom, the school supplies athletic uniforms except shoes without charge.

The Ould Newbury Golf Club maintains a good nine-hole golf course on school land, which is rented to the Club by the school. The arrangements provides that members of the school may enjoy the privileges of the course by paying to the Club an annual nominal fee of $10.

No charge is made for dispensary treatment at the school infirmary except for special medicines which may need to be purchased in individual cases. A charge of $3 a day for board and nursing is made when a boy is in residence at the infirmary except that no charge is made for the first day of each illness. Special nurses will be engaged only when necessary and then at the parents' expense.

No charges are made for delivering ordinary express packages. A charge of 50c is made for handling trunks and very large boxes. The school driver does necessary errands for boys in Newburyport without charge. When a boy secures permission to visit Newburyport to see the doctor, or for some other important reason, or when the school motor or bus takes boys to and from the train at Newburyport, a charge of 25c is made for a one-way trip, or 40c for a round trip. Most of the boys walk down the road to the Byfield Parish Church on Sunday mornings, but for boys attending church in Ipswich and Newburyport the cost of bus transportation is charged.

Deposit Accounts: A deposit of $50 for boarding boys and of $25 for day students is required at the beginning of the school year. This deposit is used to pay for school books and supplies, and in addition, such optional or personal expenses as each boy may incur and which it is practicable to handle through the school office. Besides the necessary expense for school books and supplies, such optional school expenses or personal expenses might include stationery, subscription to school paper, charity subscriptions, school dance tickets, transportation to and from Newburyport, optional bus trips, doctor's bills, insurance for medical expenses arising from accidents, telephone and telegraph, pressing clothes, laundry (if done locally), cartage of trunks, annual $10 fee if boy plays golf, and spending money and travelling expenses if administered by the school. The personal expenses which a day student would incur through the school office would probably be limited to the first four or five items listed in the previous sentence.

Spending Money: One or two dollars per week is recommended for spending money, as there is little opportunity for a boy to spend money at the school. Most of the parents arrange to have this allowance issued to the boy by the school and charged to the boy's deposit account. Parents are requested to instruct the school if they wish the school to issue spending or allowance money to their sons and in what amounts.

Supervision of Deposit Account: The school will be glad to co-operate with parents in limiting the amount of cash (in addition to the allowance) which a boy withdraws from his deposit account, and in restricting personal and optional charges made against his deposit account, but only if requested to do so by the parents. Parents who wish such supervision are requested to write the school, giving as definite instructions as possible regarding the nature of the restrictions they wish.

A statement of the unexpended balance in the deposit account is rendered to the parents each month. Parents will be expected always to keep a balance to their son's credit and to anticipate large withdrawals such as those for travelling expenses. A credit balance at the end of the school year is refundable, but such a balance is usually carried forward to the next year.

Initial Payment: The school should receive a check on or before the opening of school in the fall for the first installment of tuition, plus the required deposit of $50 for boarding students and $25 for day students. Checks should be made payable to *Governor Dummer Academy*

CLOTHING

Besides the usual large pieces of furniture, each boy's room is provided with a rug, window curtains, desk blotter and pad, study lamp, mattress, pillow, couch cover, and all of the bed linen. The school will provide table napkins. A boy's outfit might include approximately the following articles:

Two pairs of blankets
Comfortable (if desired)
Two laundry bags
Dark suit
School suit
Old suit
Light and heavy underwear
Flannels or slacks
Stockings and socks
Dressing gown and slippers
Handkerchiefs
Pajamas
Collars and ties
Face and bath towels
Shoes
Rubbers and arctics
Hat
Heavy sweater
Overcoat, raincoat
Sheepskin coat or mackinaw.
Shirts (including several plain white shirts which should be worn at dinner.)

Parents are requested to have their son's clothing supplied at home during vacations. All clothing, including shoes and rubbers, all bedding and laundry bags, should be plainly marked with the name in full.

As stated above, the school supplies athletic uniforms except shoes without charge. Each boy, however, should bring with him any athletic equipment he may have, especially football shoes and gymnasium or tennis shoes. A complete line of athletic goods is handled by the school store from which boys may order, if they wish, such personal equipment as tennis racquets, shoes, skiing equipment, sport shoes, flannel trousers, flannel shirts, etc.

Laundry: The school provides and launders all bed linen. The school does not pay for a boy's personal laundry. Many boys send their laundry home by parcel post in special laundry mailing boxes, but in order to accommodate families who do not wish this arrangement, the school makes arrangements with a good local laundry to make collections and deliveries once a week.

Medical Examinations: The school does not submit the boys to periodic physical or medical examinations, unless in case of illness or accident, or unless specifically requested by the parents. Accordingly, parents should inform the school in writing of any physical condition, as for example, a heart condition or hernia, which might make it necessary to limit a boy's participation in athletics. The school entrance application form provides an opportunity for giving this information. Experience has shown that it is wise to have a boy's eyes and teeth thoroughly examined within a reasonably short time before the opening of each school year. Parents are requested to arrange, whenever possible, to have all doctor, dentist, oculist, and other important appointments made during vacation periods.

Resident Nurse: The school keeps an experienced trained nurse in residence. The Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport, ten minutes away, is available in emergency cases. This hospital is recognized as a Grade A institution by the American College of Surgeons.

School Physicians: The school physician, Dr. Carleton W. Bullard of Newburyport, is a graduate of Harvard College and the Medical School of Harvard University. Dr. Reginald H. Smithwick serves as the school's consulting surgeon. Dr. Smithwick is a graduate of the Medical School of Harvard University and is now a member of its teaching staff. He is a member of the staff of the Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

All boys are instructed to report any sickness or accident to the school infirmary. It is the policy of the school to call the school physician to examine and treat all cases in which there is the slightest doubt in the nurse's mind. If any boy is confined to the infirmary overnight, it is an established rule of the school to report this fact to his parents at once, even though the matter is not serious. In case of any serious illness, the school will keep in constant touch with the boy and his parents.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Vacations: In response to the expressed wish of many of the parents to have their sons at home over Thanksgiving, the school annually grants a Thanksgiving holiday, which extends from Wednesday noon until eight o'clock the following Sunday evening. Because a number of the boys have to travel long distances to reach home. the school observes none of the many traditional one-day holidays and instead has lengthened the annual Christmas and Easter vacations.

Parents are urgently requested not to ask special permission for their sons to leave school early or to return late at vacation periods, nor to leave before the close of the Commencement Exercises. It is very difficult to grant such a request, not only because boys cannot easily afford to lose school time nor the school to interrupt its routine, but also because it is difficult to give special permission to one boy which is not granted to others.

Report Letters: The headmaster writes report letters to the parents regularly three or four times each year, and more frequently when it seems advisable. The first report is rendered for the period ending November 1st, and is sent only to the parents of new boys. Three regular reports are sent to all parents as of January 1st, April 1st, and June 15th; that is, at the close of each of the three terms. These report letters are not necessarily limited to the boy's scholastic work, but are often concerned with other phases of his school life and personal development.

Telephone Calls: Parents are requested to limit the number of telephone calls to their sons so far as is practicable. Boys cannot be called from classes or study halls to answer the telephone, and it is usually an inconvenience to the boy to be called from the athletic field or the dining hall. Necessary calls can best be made in the half-hour directly following the evening meal at school. A boy always has permission to telephone home, and it is better to have telephone calls originate from the school. Do not hesitate to call the headmaster at any time, or to request the school office to deliver messages to your son.

Rooms and Pictures: The school has made an effort to provide unusually homelike and attractive boys' rooms, and it expects that each boy will take an interest in decorating his room and will exercise care in using it. In most of the rooms, the school has already been able, through the gift of a friend, to hang one carefully selected picture. Each boy is strongly urged to bring three or four good framed pictures for his room. Banners and cheap decorations are not permitted. All pictures and decorations must be such as can be suspended from the picture moulding, since the use of thumbtacks in the walls is not permitted.

Boys are not permitted to have easy chairs in their rooms, since the rooms are not large enough to include them without overcrowding. In Perkins Hall, in about half a dozen single rooms which are large enough, boys may have easy chairs, and in these rooms the school will provide the chairs.

Boys are not permitted to have firearms or motor vehicles of any kind at the school. No electric irons, toasters, or other electric appliances are permitted in the boys' rooms.

Radios and victrolas are not permitted except in the masters' rooms and in the Mansion House. In addition there is available to the Music classes, and under regulations to all of the boys, a large electric phonograph in the living room of the New Building. This phonograph together with 615 selected records is the gift of the Carnegie Foundation.

Visits to School: Parents are welcome at the school at any time. Sunday afternoon is a particularly good time for parents to visit their sons, since this is a time when the boys are least likely to have engagements. This is also a good time to see the headmaster, since Mr. and Mrs. Eames plan to be at the school regularly on Sunday afternoons throughout each term. Tea is served in the living room of the New Building on Sunday afternoons for all parents and visitors.